

WHAT IT IS

JUNE 1980

VOL.8 NO.3

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

Post Office Box 15072, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94115

VOTE

JUNE 3



1973

Tis the season for POLITICS

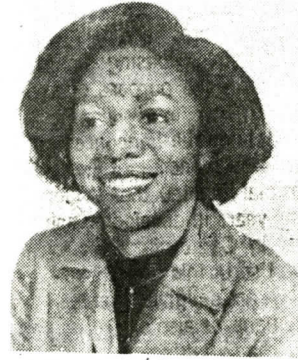
"BLACK POWER" DAY!!!



ESTELLA DOOLEY



LULU CARTER
Assembly District 17



Dr. Sodonía Wilson



ALBERTA MARIE JACKSON.

ITS THAT TIME AGAIN - PRIMARY DAY - June 3, 1980.

BWOA planned to have a CANDIDATES FORUM, but unfortunately schedules were too tight to set up several nights of interviews and voting on candidates to recommend to the membership for endorsements.

So, here's some information on the Black female candidates running for office

Estella Dooley, Candidate for Judge, Superior Court No. 1: An attorney in the Bay Area for 22 years who specializes in mental health law. She has administered both the juvenile court and mental health units of the public defenders office. Her community activities include Board of Directors Booker T. Washington Center; Bernal Heights Improvement Association; Mayor's Committee on the Status of Women and numerous others. She was named one of the Bay Area's four outstanding women attorneys in 1978 by Advocates for Women. There are no Black women judges in San Francisco and Estella is the most qualified to represent us!

The County Central Committees of both the Democratic and Republican parties may not wield very much political power, but that is not stopping the vigorous campaigns being waged in the Bay Area by political regulars who wish to gain seats on those committees. Listed below are the Black female candidates:

No Blacks are running in the 16th Assembly District.

17th Assembly District: Lulu Carter, Supervisor Ella Hill Hutch, Alberta Marie Jackson and Gwen Craig

18th Assembly District: Sodonía Wilson and Tressa Myers

Look for these names on voting day!



The State Election Code allows California workers up to two hours time off from work with penalty in order to vote. So that's one less excuse to keep you from the polls on June 3.

SPEAK OUT!

California voters who go to the polls on June 3 will have the chance to vote yes on Proposition 9 and thus plunge this state virtually into the Dark Ages in terms of the human services it provides. Or those voters can reject, by voting NO on Prop 9, the idea that lowered tax rates for the rich take priority over the needs of poor and minority people, children and the elderly.

Prop 9, also known as Jarvis II, is an initiative that proposes to cut state personal income taxes to 50% of the 1978 rates. It would also require that the rates be indexed to the rate of inflation. It would further prohibit property taxation of business inventories. By cutting the maximum personal income tax rate from 11 to 5½%, the amendment would reduce state revenues by \$4.9 billion. That translates into a 25% decrease in the state's General Fund, which finances almost nine-tenths of state and state supported local government activities. More than half the General Fund each year goes to pay for Education; another third pays for health and welfare.

Those who support Prop 9 claim that it would benefit taxpayers. This is true for those taxpayers who earn the most money - \$30,000 or more. The taxpayers who will save the most are those with the highest incomes. The poor, the elderly, the unemployed, the disabled, the underemployed - many of whom are minorities and women - will not be helped by this initiative because they pay no state income taxes now. But those who will be hurt by Prop 9 include almost all of us, except perhaps the most wealthy. Public Education services would be decimated by Jarvis II, coming on the heels of Prop 13. Programs for children with special needs, summer schools, sports and recreation programs, and after school programs, as well as school staff members such as librarians, would be almost completely eliminated.

Public health services would be cut to shreds. This includes county hospitals, Medi-Cal services, mental health services, Family Planning services.

Services to the elderly would be reduced,

such as Senior Citizens' centers. But our seniors would also be affected indirectly, by cuts in parks services, libraries, and other "free" services that the elderly rely upon to fill their leisure time.

All of us would be affected by drastic cuts in police protection, fire protection, bus service, garbage collection, and other general public services.

Even those who do benefit by lowered tax rates will more than make up the difference in higher fees for those services that remain, such as zoos and museums. Opponents of Prop 9 are not crying fire in a crowded theatre, as some claim. It is possible to assess this initiative with complete objectivity, and still to conclude that to vote for it would be insanity, perhaps the most self destructive act that California voters could perform. The ripple effects of increased human suffering in this state would be almost beyond our ability to calculate.

Therefore, it is critically important that we go to the polls this June 3, in record numbers, and vote a resounding NO on Jarvis II. If ever there was a time for all of us to come together in one voice - the young, the old, Blacks, whites, women, men - this surely is that time.

Ernestine D. Eppenger



I was very impressed and very eager to get involved with BWOA after the inspirational brunch held in September, 1979. Since that time, I have tried to participate as much as possible. In a short time I consider BWOA a very important part of my life.

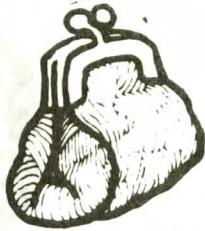
However, I realize that I, and other relatively new members have many things to learn about the history, practices, and procedures of BWOA. We need the expertise and advice of the more experienced members. I feel this advice can best be expressed at the monthly meetings on a regular basis.

I urge all members, old and new, to attend all meetings and express themselves.

Patricia McMillian

3

VOTE NO ON 9



**dues
time!!**

Membership Renewal Time is upon us. Current memberships will expire on June 30, 1980. Our membership fee operates on a sliding scale of \$15.-\$25.00 per fiscal year. However, you may obtain our monthly newsletter "What It Is" for \$7.50 per year.

Aside from the obvious monetary support the dues allow us, it also covers the mailing cost of "What It Is" and all announcements relative to BWOA.

Preferably, membership fees should be sent to: BWOA, PO Box 15072, S. F., Ca. 94115. However, a Membership Committee member and/or our Treasurer may accept membership fees.

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

Renewal _____
New _____

Newsletter _____
Membership _____

Effective July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE...(H) _____ (O) _____

Send To: P.O. Box 15072, San Francisco 94115

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BWOA

**SAN FRANCISCO BIG
SISTERS
INC**

...needs you and/or someone you know. San Francisco Big Sisters (SFBS) has been in existence since 1977. Since that time they have matched over 100 Big and Little Sisters. Currently there is a tremendous need for minority Big Sisters. SFBS has about fifty Black Little Sisters who are waiting to be matched. Nearly 85% of the women who volunteer to be Big Sisters are white. Yet over 40%

of the Little Sisters are Black. BWOA and other Black women's organizations need to begin to come to grips with this reality and do something about it. Our children are our future!

There is also a need for Third World input on the Board of Directors of SFBS. Board positions are open to both women and men.

If you are interested, or if you know of someone who is, contact:

San Francisco Big Sisters
149 Ninth Street,
San Francisco, Ca. 94103
Tele: (415) 552-6220

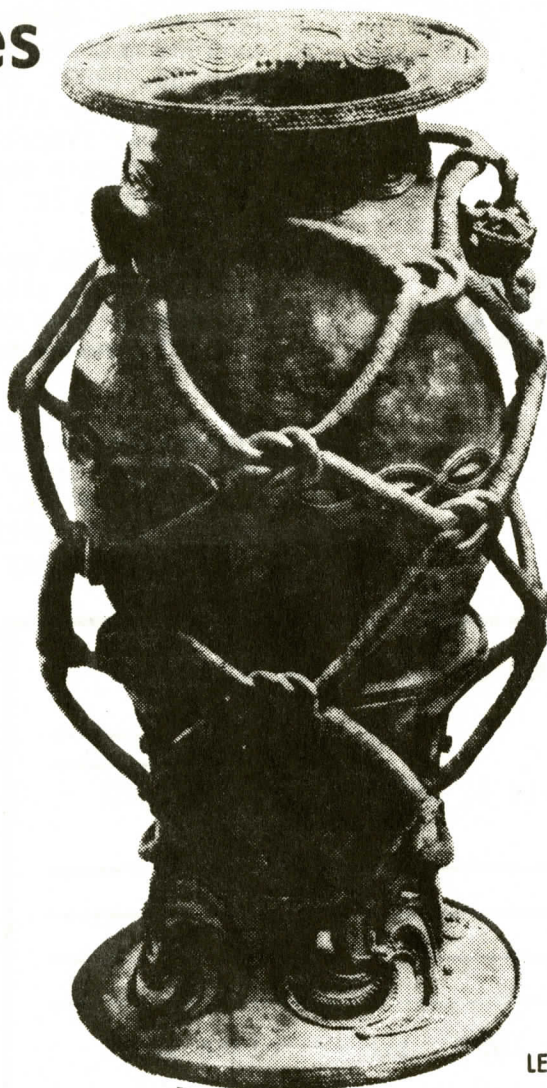
Treasures of Ancient Nigeria

A MUST SEE

Currently at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco's Lincoln Park is the unique exhibit "Treasures of Ancient Nigeria." The artwork, all done in either terracotta (a kind of stone), bronze, zinc, copper, or lead variations of these metals, dates from approximately 500 B.C. to the nineteenth century. One hundred pieces of art are displayed, offering the viewer examples of craftsmanship of the NOK, IGBO-UKWU, IFE, OWO, and BENIN cultures of Nigeria.

Organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts, this exhibit is the first major loan of Nigerian art treasures to the United States. The exhibit is rich in cultural history, but more outstanding is the style and beauty of each piece.

One example of the quality craftsmanship represented is the Igbo-Ukwu piece "Roped Pot on a Stand" which is pictured above. The vessel is cast in bronze in a style which bespeaks the advanced artistic development of the culture. The viewer comes away from the exhibit with a feeling of pride in the knowledge that some of the most advanced and



LEADED BRONZE ROPED POT ON STAND



COPPER SEATED FIGURE

sophisticated cultures the world has known existed in ancient Africa.

Each object in the show is impeccably mounted and displayed, and historical accounts of each culture are posted at several locations throughout the exhibit. Audio guides, and a film describing the excavation of the art pieces enhance the historical importance of the exhibit. Not since the King Tut exhibit last year, has this city seen such magnificent representations of ancient African cultures.

Also available for purchase are brochures, books, and posters at the Museum bookstore. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. General admission is \$1 for adults, and 50¢ for children and seniors. "Treasures of Ancient Nigeria" requires an additional admission fee of 50¢ for adults, and 25¢ for children.

The exhibit will run thru June 29, 1980. The #2 Clement bus will let you off at 33rd Avenue. Walk to 34th Avenue, then thru the park to the Museum. Take the family!

Toni Wynn

Many BWOA members as well as women from all over the Bay area will participate in the San Francisco Regional Conference for Women: American Women: Issues and Progress in the UN Decade for Women, 1976-1985, to be held June 6-7, at the San Francisco Hilton hotel.

The Conference, sponsored by the Women's Bureau and the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Secretariat for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, is the fifth in a series of conferences to be held thruout the United States in preparation for the World Conference of the U.N. Decade for Women, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 14 - 30.

The UN Decade for Women, 1976-1985, is an outgrowth of International Women's Year, and the Mexico City Conference of 1975. The IWY Conference in Mexico City that year focused world attention on the need to begin to point out the contributions of the world's women and their conditions. IWY Mexico also recommended a mid-Decade reassessment which would examine the progress that women will have made in the first five years of the Decade, and develop new programs and strategies for use in the second half of the decade.

In 1980, five years into the decade, women will re-assemble in Copenhagen, Denmark, from July 14-30, to review and appraise

the progress of their governments in the fields of education, employment, and health, as these areas relate to women. An official UN-sponsored conference, this is the second government-to-government world conference on women in five years - a UN first.

The purpose of the five regional U.S. conferences is to obtain the views and perspectives of American women on our progress. Hopefully a wide range of races, classes, and educational and philosophical backgrounds and perspectives will be represented in the final assessments. Minority women are urged to participate.

There are ten different workshops to choose from: Menopause and the Physical and Mental Health of Older Women; Family Planning; Questionable Surgery for Women; Women as Health Care providers-Nurses; Child-bearing :An International Perspective; Women and Energy; Domestic Relations; Women as Environmental Health Professionals; Self-employed Women; and Work-related Benefits: An International Perspective.

For information on the conference, call Vern Goff at (202) 632-4406, or 632-6474.

f y i . . .

Until recently, the government had a job-training program aimed primarily at helping younger people get into the work force.

Now, more emphasis is being put on helping older people -- especially women. It's all part of an enormously complicated law called the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

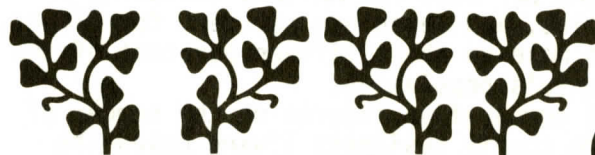
The money and the opportunities are there for those who know how to hunt them down. To help with the hunt, The Older Women's League Educational Fund has written a sharp, easy-to-read guidebook called "How to Tame the CETA Beast." It costs \$2.50 from: Older Women's League Educational Fund, 3800 Harrison St., Oakland 94611.

Who's eligible? The manual says this can be a tricky question. In general, you're eligible for CETA training or jobs if: you receive welfare (including SSI), earn no more than the federal poverty level and show need of a job.

Each applicant must be judged on current financial status and need for a job. You may qualify, but you'll never know unless you investigate.



The BWOA newsletter for July will carry a special feature on Domestic Violence and the Battered Woman, including an interview with a local Black woman attorney who is dedicated to working with the local police departments to solve some of the law enforcement problems by developing new policies and practices in the training of policemen. Domestic violence is a problem that cuts across all racial, educational, and cultural lines. Many feminist groups are making special efforts to publicize the problem, educate those who work with the problem on a daily basis, and develop support systems for the women who are the victims.



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The following editorial appeared recently in the Los Angeles Times:

THE AMERICAN NIGHTMARE

The Black experience began in America as tragedy, and continues as tragedy. After the Black uprising in Miami, the governor of Florida, Robert Graham, said, "Black Americans, as well as whites, have worked long and hard since the days of the first civil-rights marches, to secure a fair portion of the American dream for all our citizens...We have come too far, worked too hard, to see that everything is lost in one more night of needless violence and rage."

On one level the governor is correct. Dramatic gains have been made in the legal status of Blacks since the 1960s, but the mass of Blacks remain on the lowest rung of the economic ladder. In Dade county, whose borders are the same as the metropolitan area of Miami, the unemployment rate of Blacks is more than twice that of whites. It is estimated at eight per cent for whites, including Latins, and seventeen per cent for Blacks, who make up about fifteen per cent of the county's population.

The comparative figures on the number of Dade county residents living below the poverty line are equally ominous. The

state figures for non-Latin whites is ten per cent, for Latins 18 per cent, and for Blacks 38 per cent.

Leaders in Miami, white and Black, agree that the Black community is seething with a sense of frustration and hopelessness, and that the recent influx of refugees has increased their anxiety and bitterness. American Blacks have been forced into job competition not only with Cubans but also with thousands of Black immigrants from the West Indies. They see the new arrivals as one more barrier placed between them and their opportunity to earn a living.

The acquittals of four white policemen in the beating death of a Black Miami insurance executive was perceived by the Black community as the latest in a series of injustices committed by the police against Blacks. In 1979, the police raided the home of a Black schoolteacher in the mistaken belief that he was a cocaine dealer.

The teacher said that he and his son were beaten, but no action was taken by the police.

Six months ago, an off-duty white policeman shot and killed a black, 22, whom the officer suspected of

MIAMI.....continued



being a burglar. A grand jury voted not to indict the officer, who said that his gun went off accidentally.

Also last year, a white highway patrolman was accused of sexually molesting an eleven year old Black girl. The original judge, refusing probation, recommended that the officer be sent to an institution for sex offenders. A second judge, who later entered the case, granted probation.

In the seven week trial of the four police officers, the jurors heard testimony from three former Miami policemen who said that the insurance executive had been fatally beaten and that the records

were falsified to make it appear that he died in a traffic accident. The six-man, all-white jury deliberated for two hours and forty minutes, acquitting the policemen on all counts.

The perception in the Black community was that the system of justice had failed, and the U.S. attorney in Miami tacitly agreed. He will go to a grand jury Wednesday to bring federal charges of

civil-rights violations against the four officers.

But, even though the jurors believed that they had returned a fair verdict based on the evidence, the system failed in a much larger sense by not dealing adequately with the unrest among the Black population in Miami. The Community - Relations Service of the U.S. Justice Department said, "It was a situation that was allowed to fester too long without something positive being done about it to the satisfaction of the Black community."

And beyond that is the economic reality confronted by masses of American Blacks. The historic dilemma of race in America will not be resolved until Blacks have an equal opportunity to claim their "fair portion of the American dream."



It's just a Stage, a women's theatre company, presents "The Mountain Is Stirring," a play about violence and women, which will be presented on week-ends at the Marina theatre at Fort Mason during the month of June. BWOA is scheduled to make a presentation following one of the performances later in the month.

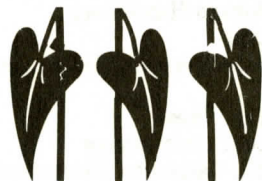
COMMUNITY LAW WEEK

The Bar Association of San Francisco and KGO Television are organizing a major community affairs program called Community Law Week scheduled for the week of June 16-20, 1980. Volunteer attorneys from the San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation and various minority bar associations are coordinating a week-long program geared to providing easy access to free legal advice and preventive legal education to low and moderate income communities. KGO will provide media coverage, programming mini-documentaries, talk shows, and news stories on legal issues affecting poor people. KGO Radio will present radio programs on legal issues.

A series of Community Law Fairs will be held in low income communities throughout the City. Each Fair will last one day. Volunteer attorneys will be available to answer individual legal questions. There will also be workshop panels on the law designed to provide preventive legal education to the community. Five general areas of the law will be stressed: Housing, Consumer Fraud, Small Claims Court and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Money Management and the Law, and Family Law.

There will also be specialized programs relating to immigration law, criminal law, tax law, SSI/welfare, and other issues, depending upon the needs of the individual communities.

Judy Johnson, a Black woman attorney in the Consumer Fraud Unit of the District Attorney's office will coordinate the program, along with Peter Speaks of the Hunter's Point San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation office.



"Ready and Forward" - Black Soldiers Exhibit at the Presidio Museum in San Francisco. through September 15, 1980.



BOYCOTT!

Concerned Black Artists for Action is Seeking support by Black organizations all over the country for its' National Selective Buyers' Year Campaign.

In the past few months they have picketed all of the major motion picture studios as well as the television networks. Members of CBAA have met with some of the media heads and with people in the creative departments of the industry. CBAA has enlisted help from the national news media to publicize its fight against discrimination in the industry. CBAA has also enlisted the aid of various state and federal government agencies who have an interest in eliminating racial discrimination and the distortion of Black images in films and on television. The group has set a target date of January 15, 1982, to assess the effects of its campaign.

The official CBAA platform states: "CBAA wants total integration in all areas of the television and motion picture industry. The general public relates to television and movies in terms of real-life situations. America condemns other world powers for the very same atrocity its television and films practice with impunity. The industry portrays racism thru separatism when indeed this country is the melting pot of the world. There certainly should not be any all-white or all-Black shows. CBAA urges racial balance in the otherwise racist, self-serving industry of television and motion pictures.

As of January, 1980, CBAA has urged a boycott of products made by the Procter and Gamble company because that company sponsors shows which are racially unbalanced. For example, among daytime soaps, "As the World Turns," "The Guiding Light," "Another World," "Search for Tomorrow," and "The Edge of Night," 129 white actors and 5 (five) Black actors are employed.

Procter & Gamble Products Please Refrain From Buying

Alternatives Or Try Your Local Supermarket Brands

Detergents

Bold
Bonus
Dreft
Duz
Cheer
Dash
Ivory
Oxydol
Tide
Biz
Gain
Era Liquid

Try These

All
Fab
Citrus
White King
Cold Power XE
All
Citrus
Shaklee
Drive
Powder or Liquid Amway SA8
Purux
Wisk, Dynamo

Soap

Camay
Coast
Ivory
Lava
Safeguard
Zest

Try These

Dove, Palmolive
Caress
Basic H (Shaklee), Lifebuoy
Boraxo Hand Soap
Dial
Tone, Jergens, Gentle Touch

Dishwashing Liquids

Dawn
Cascade (Dishwasher)
Ivory
Joy

Try These

Lux, Dermassage
All, Calgonite, Electra-sol
Dove, Colgate
Amway, Shaklee, Palmolive

Fabric Softener

Bounce
Downey

Try These

Cling-Free, Toss 'n Soft
Rain Barrel

Household Cleaners

Comet
Mr. Clean
Spic & Span
Top Job

Try These

Clorox Soft Scrub, Bon Ami
Lysol, Ajax Liquid
409, Pinesol, Lysol
Fantastic, Lysol

Procter & Gamble Products Please Refrain From Buying

Alternatives Or Try Your Local Supermarket Brand

Personal Hygiene

Crest
Gleam
Head & Shoulders
Lilt Home Perm
Prell
Scope
Sure
Secret
Wondra
Rely
Charmin
White Cloud
Puff Tissues
Bounty Paper Towels
Pampers
Love Disposable Diapers

Try These

Colgate, Macleans
Close-up, Aim
Selsun Blue, DHS TAR (pharmacy)
Toni, L'oreal
Breck, Revlon, L'oreal
Signal, Listerine, Lavoris
Ban, Dial
Arrid
Ponds, Nivia, Jergens
Tampons, Playtex
Scot Tissue, Northern
MD, Nice 'n Soft
Scotties, Kleenex, Vera
Spillmate, Gala II, Zee
Johnson & Johnson
Kleenex Huggies

Coffee

Folgers
High Point Decaffeinated

Try These

Yuban, Maxwell
Brim, Sanka

Food

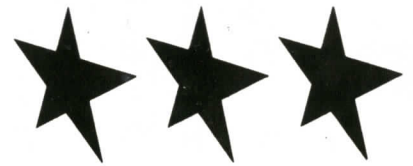
Crisco Oil
Duncan Hines
Fluffo
Jiff
Puritan Oil
Pringle Potato Chips

Try These

Snow Drift, Richtex
Cinch, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury
Snow Drift, Richtex
Laura Scudders, Skippy
SunLite, Hollywood, Olive Oil
Laura Scudders, Lays, Wise



NEWSMAKERS



"THE NAACP FIRST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE"

As one of the coordinators of BWOA, I attended a seminar in Chicago sponsored by the NAACP. There were representatives present from 100 target cities in the U.S. The purpose of the meeting was to form a Sustainer's Committee to organize a National Fundraising Program whereby as many Black people as possible would pledge at least \$50 per year, for the next five to ten years, to the NAACP to cover administrative costs.

As a result of the meeting a Women's Conference was planned. It was held April 25 and 26 in New York. At least 500 people registered (men and women). Three were BWOA members: Alma Jackson, JoAnne Lewis and myself. Some of the highlights were:

1. Awards were given to several Black women for outstanding contributions in Education, Health, Religion, and Community Services.
2. A social period where attendees could meet and exchange names, ideas and other information.
3. Four very informative workshops in education, political action, equal employment opportunities and health were held.
4. A Town Hall meeting took place with only John Anderson attending, among all the Presidential candidates invited. The others did not even bother to respond. (Black voters take note!)

With all of the frustrations, hassles, disappointments, etc., of the conference it was quite a success overall. Enough money was collected to underwrite the cost. A date and place have been set for the second annual conference, to be held on May 1 and 2, 1981, in Cincinnati, Ohio. In my opinion, it is important for all of us as Black people to realize how much we have been affected in some way by the many programs of the NAACP, and to commit ourselves to support the organization in its financial struggles.

Flora Gilford



OUR IMMORTAL SISTERS

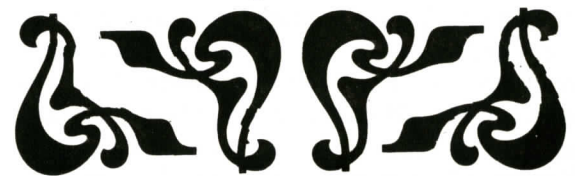
Septima Clark and Rosa Parks

Do you know who Septima Clark is? I didn't until I attended a dinner in her honor on May 1, 1980 at Hs' Lordships on the Berkeley Marina sponsored by the East Bay Friends of the Highlander Research and Education Center. Septima Clark is an accomplished speaker, educator and above all an instrumental person in the civil rights movement. In 1956, Mrs. Clark developed the Citizenship Education Program that taught thousands of black adults to read and write and register to vote.

Did you know that Rosa Parks did more than refuse to give her seat to a white man? She had always stood her ground on civil rights issues. She had had other confrontations with white bus drivers. What made the "famous bus incident" significant and different is that she was arrested on that occasion. Her fight for civil rights did not begin nor end with her refusal to give up her seat.

Septima Clark and Rosa Parks became friends when they met at the Highlands Research and Education Center in Tennessee in 1955. The strength and actions of these women have made our lives better. We need to know that and we need to let others know that.

Rita Myers



Ms. Elouise Westbrooks, long-time political activist in the Bayview/Hunter's Point District of San Francisco, was sworn in Thursday as the new member of the San Francisco Housing Authority by Mayor Feinstein.



● INSIDE BWOA ●

WE SALUTE YOU: Roberta Palm has resigned as editor of the BWOA newsletter with the printing of the May issue.

Roberta served as newsletter editor for four years. Under her leadership and creative spirit the BWOA newsletter became a major communication link between the organization and its widespread membership, many of whom could not attend meetings on a regular basis.

Through Roberta's conscientious searching out of articles of interest to our readers, the BWOA newsletter kept our readers informed on some of the critical issues faced by Black women today. She set a standard of professionalism and dedication that will be hard to replace. Fortunately Roberta has agreed to continue to serve as reporter and consultant to the newsletter when needed.

For those who do not know her personally, Roberta has been a member of BWOA for four years. She is a native of Maryland, and attended schools in Baltimore and Cambridge, Mass. She has an extensive background in journalism and publishing, including work on the Washington Star and Afro-American newspapers in Washington, D. C., and serving as week-end anchorperson for a Black television news show in the D.C. area. Roberta was the first editor hired by the Howard University press, then as now the only Black university press organization in the country. She worked there for three years, and edited a book that was later considered for a Pulitzer prize. Roberta also worked in publishing in Florida and in Los Angeles before moving to the Bay area. Currently she is employed as a public relations representative for PG&E.

Roberta has one sibling, a twin brother Robert. She was born under the sign Aquarius. In addition to editing the newsletter, Roberta heads the Media Committee, and has served on the Political Action, Fundraising and International Women's Year committees as a member of BWOA. She has served as coordinator, on the Steering Committee, and performed public speaking engagements for BWOA.

Roberta Palm exemplifies the best of young Black womanhood: Articulate, attractive, competent, highly educated, dedicated, successful, and fired by a genuine sense of commitment to developing the best in herself and in the Black community. BWOA can be proud to call her one of our own.

Ernestine D. Eppenger

It has always been a prime goal of the media committee to help better the mass media image of black people -- but with special emphasis on Black Women. Over the past few years, we've kind of laid low, but now we have two projects to hang our hats on. NBC and its affiliate stations across the country are planning to televise a mini-series based on the book Beulah Land. The series depicts slavery as a glorified institution that many Blacks were sad to see end. It shows Black women wantonly sleeping with the master and portrays the Black man as lazy, irresponsible and stupid. ENOUGH! The Media Committee plans to send a letter to KRON and to NBC in New York. We would encourage you as individuals also to send letters. You need write only two lines : I will not watch your miniseries Beulah Land. I will not buy any products which sponsor Beulah Land.

The address in New York is: Mr. Fred Silverman, NBC/TV, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10020. The local address for KRON is : Paul A. Wischmeyer, KRON, 1001 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, 94109. The committee is also investigating giving support to KQED's new black-oriented family series Up and Comin'. The dramatic series, based here in San Francisco, reveals some very positive images of a Black family . More about this project will appear in next month's newsletter.

Roberta Palm



Please let your voice be heard!

Et Cetera

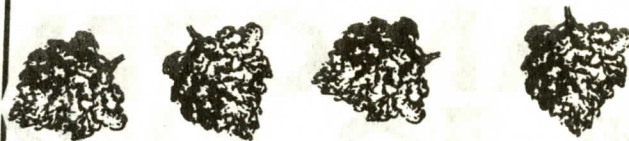
The American Psychiatric Association met in a week-long conference in San Francisco in May. Over 14,000 strong, the mostly white male group finally voted to support the economic boycott of ERA-unratified states. The APA was the only mental "health" organization refusing to honor the boycott. The group succumbed to some heavy pressure to change their initial stand.

Pro-ERA groups picketed outside the Civic Auditorium which served as headquarters for the APA conference. Picket lines and a rally were held outside the Hilton hotel where many of the conference workshops took place. Feminist Gloria Steinem and local newscaster Belva Davis spoke at the rally. Spin-off groups such as the Black caucus and the psychiatrists for ERA vehemently protested the ERA vote and threatened to boycott next year's APA conference in New Orleans.

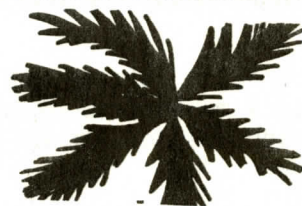
Dr. June Christmas, Black woman psychiatrist and Commissioner of Mental Health in New York City, spoke at a special session on the ERA, in favor of the ERA.

Feminist Betty Friedan in a written statement to a group called Psychiatrists for ERA, said: "It is shocking that the organized psychiatrists of this nation, the majority of whose patients are women, have given public notice of their intent to keep women in the state of denigration, and frustration which fosters mental illness - upon which they profit - by refusing to support women's own movement for equal rights. Why else would the American Psychiatric Association vote to repudiate and disregard the boycott of states refusing to ratify the ERA, supported by the great majority of women and men in this country?"

Two major mental health studies of 15-20 years ago, the Midtown Manhattan Longitudinal study and the National Center for Health Statistics study show a massive improvement in the mental health and psychological well-being of women in this country in the last 15 years compared to the impairment, increasing depression and deterioration women used to suffer increasingly in each decade after their 20's. These studies show that it has been good for women's mental health to have won some measure of ability to earn and participate in society with equal rights with men, and to have gained some control over their own destiny.



Equality of rights and opportunity is clearly good for the mental health of women---and of men. If the APA had not changed its view, it would have been desirable for women (but not necessarily good for the income of many psychiatrists) to decide that since they already enjoy so much equality, self-worth and freedom (according to some) that they need not consult psychiatrists---ever again! Or, at the very least, they should consult only those psychiatrists---women or men---who support the Equal Rights Amendment and what it stands for!



WE WELCOME YOU: Ernestine D. Eppenger will replace Roberta Palm as the editor of the BWOA newsletter, beginning with the June issue. Ernestine has been a BWOA member for about one year.

A native of Indiana, she lived in New York for fifteen years before moving to the Bay area two years ago. An experienced newspaper reporter, Ernestine has a B.A. in journalism. Switching careers, she got a Masters' degree in psychology, and has worked for the past fifteen years as a social worker and therapist in private practice. She is also an Astrologer, an herbalist, and an expert in preventive health care.

A social activist, Ernestine has worked with many civil rights and women's organizations, including the Feminist Credit Union in New York, and the Bay Area Feminist Credit Union, now defunct.

Since becoming a BWOA member, Ernestine has been active with most BWOA projects. She is currently one of the Coordinators.

She plans to work closely with outgoing editor Roberta Palm, and with editor-on-leave Laverne Lewis, as well as with other BWOA members to maintain and improve the high quality of work set by the BWOA newsletter editors who preceded her.

Ernestine is born under the sun sign Taurus, with an Aries moon, and a Gemini ascendent.



AN OPEN LETTER TO BWOA SISTERS

This letter is the response to a request from one of the Coordinators to share the information about policies and procedures of the organization with members.

For members who have been a part of the organization since its inception, the policies and procedures are not new. For others, there is a possibility that they never heard of them. Following is what I hope will be clarification. The policies and procedures detailed here, although unwritten, have been in practice in BWOA since its inception (1973).

Note: What brought this on was a request to send a membership payment to an organization (request to me as Treasurer).

As a body, BWOA does not join organizations. The group lends support by encouraging members to join (i.e., NAACP; Urban League, Business and Professional Women, etc.) Also, we lend our name as an indication of support to legitimate causes and/or organizations AFTER approval by the general body.

PROCEDURE: Any member or members who wish the group to act on a recommendation (such as fundraiser; meetings of interest; expenditures other than operating, etc.) submits such recommendations to the STEERING COMMITTEE for review, discussion, etc., The STEERING COMMITTEE recommends presentation to the general body for action. The STEERING COMMITTEE is composed of the current Coordinators, the most recent past Coordinators; chairpersons of committees and the Treasurer. The STEERING COMMITTEE meets the first THURSDAY before the regular second WEDNESDAY meeting. At the regular meeting, the current Coordinators present to the regular body, the recommendations for action and approval. After discussion, motions are made. ONLY CURRENT PAID MEMBERS are authorized to vote on any given motion. Any meeting having fewer than 20 paid members present, the coordinators initiate personal contact with paid members to get sanction and ratification.

I am particularly concerned because what seems to be happening is that approval for activities or procedures is being given by less than one-third (1/3) of paid members. For example the most recent list I received lists approximately 100 odd members. Of these 100, at least 10 or so are out of State. Of the remaining 90, about 30 or 40 do not actively participate (do not attend meetings, but do support activities and pay annual member dues). The remaining number attend meetings sporadically, however, are usually very active in the decision making process. There are the members who, if not present at a meeting, are contacted personally to get a consensus. We have done this many times in the past, and although somewhat time consuming, does represent a broader acceptance.

I am particularly disturbed because what seems to be happening is that eight or ten individuals (of this number probably three are visitors) are making decisions of importance, affecting the entire organization. This is not democratic nor practical.

I am also disturbed, because we seem to have lost, or do not remember what we are about. There does not seem to be the caring or interest which has been so prevalent in the past. We seem to have separate agendas, and whoever vocalizes hers, and is present gets hers acted on by- the least number of people. That has not been the BWOA way. It should not be.

ORIENTATION: Outgoing coordinators have been, in the past, responsible for orienting incoming coordinators. (That is the way the policies and procedures have been passed along). This orientation usually includes, but is not limited to the following: incoming coordinators are responsible for picking up the mail from Hernandez Associates, and seeing that it is properly distributed to chairpersons of committees; checking regularly with answering service for messages; planning, developing and assisting with implementation of Newsletter (typing, taking to printer, picking up from printer, collating and mailing); selecting the convener, and who among the three will take minutes and have ready for distribution at the next meeting.

OPEN LETTER TO BWOA SISTERS...continued

The above is a brief summary of policies and procedures which as I mentioned before, have been a part of BWOA since it's inception. They have worked, and should work. We can make them work. If we want to change, we should have a consensus of the majority of paid members.

I am sure that there are other procedures or policies which we have used throughout the years, that are not mentioned here. In general, what I have outlined are the basics.

As we all know, the unique quality of BWOA is that we do not have the traditional organizational structure which is generally practiced by others. This one quality is what attracted me to BWOA, and perhaps many others. There are, of course, some who need the kind of structure (Pres, Vice-Pres., Secy, etc.) of the more traditional groups. I say to them. Try it this way, you might like it.

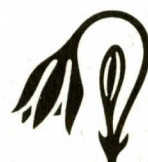
It may however, be useful, to develop a brief description of the policies and procedures for distribution to all members for referral and information.

Aluta Continua in sisterhood

Patricia E. Walton
Treasurer



Et Cetera



The Second Annual Summit on Black Concerns will convene at Sacramento's Convention Center on the weekend of June 13 thru the 15th. The primary focus of the Summit is to design a network of resourceful individuals and organizations and agencies to share contacts, information, and skills.

The three day Summit will feature speakers of national and international prominence and workshops will be designed to facilitate resource sharing in education, affirmative action, public service programs, and other areas.

Some of the participants expected are:

Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, NAACP Executive Director Ben Hooks, actress-writer Maya Angelou, poet Nikki Giovanni, actor Brock Peters, and Ben Hooks.

Also participating will be NBC Congressional Correspondent Carole Simpson, Ebony Magazine's editors Alex Poinsett, and Dr. Lerohe Bennett; State Superintendent Wilson Riles, Senator Diane Watson, and many others.

Registration fee is \$75 for the entire three days. For information contact: California Black Network and Black Summit, 4531 Northhampton Drive, Carmichael, California 95608.

Women applicants to Medical School were accepted at a lower rate than men for the academic year 1978-79, according to data reported in the Journal of Medical Education (Jan. 1980). As a result, the per cent of women entering medical school that year remained at about 25%, the same as the preceding year. The percentage of minority applicants accepted was lower than that of both white men and women, and the decline in the percentage of minority students at medical schools continues. There was a drop of 12% in the first year minority student enrollment from 1974-75, to 1978-79. No figures were available on the male-female breakdown in numbers of minority students.

The medical school with the highest enrollment of women (60%) is the Medical College of Pennsylvania, a former women's medical college. Only nine other schools admit more than 32% women: The University of Missouri, Kansas City (46%), Morehouse University (42%), University of California at San Francisco (42%), Howard University (40%), Mt. Sinai (38%), Michigan State University (37%), Northeastern Ohio (37%), and Northwestern University (34%).



ATTENTION

The BWOA general membership at the May meeting voted to take out an organization membership in another organization for the first time in BWOA history.

Members attending the meeting voted unanimously to join Everybody's Creative Arts Center. Membership fee for groups is \$ 35 per year and entitles the member organization to two free meeting dates, and group discounts on various activities at the Center.

It was later learned that \$35 is only good for non-profit organizations with other groups paying \$100 per year for memberships. The same benefits apply to both categories of group membership.

Because of the additional money involved, and because of the controversy generated by the BWOA decision among members who were not present at the meeting (see Speak-Out), the whole issue is being placed on the agenda for the June meeting.

Founded in March 1977 by a distinguished Black woman dancer and choreographer, Halifu Osumare, Everybody's set about to promote public performances and organize an extensive curriculum of diverse training for students in the performing arts. Classes include instruction in both western and international forms of dance, music and drama. Everybody's sees itself as being actively concerned with encouraging cultural development and appreciation in communities traditionally bypassed by established arts organizations. For example, there are dance classes in modern dance, ballet, jazz, tap, tai chi chuan, African dance, latin social dance, middle eastern belly dance, and classical Indian dance.

There are ethnic percussion classes offered at Everybody's, which include: West African, Middle Eastern, Congolese, and Afro-Cuban.

Also there are special classes for children in ballet, folk dance, tap, jazz and South African songs and dances. Everybody's does extensive outreach into the East Bay schools, churches and community organizations. Halifu is a native of the Bay Area. She has danced professionally for ten years. She has traveled and performed throughout the world. She has taught

at the University of Ghana, the Ballet Academy of Stockholm, Sweden; and Stanford University. She is best known for her production of "Four Women," "The Evolution of Black Dance," and "I Believe." She and her dance group perform regularly around the Bay Area. In addition to performing and choreographing, she teaches and serves as artistic director for Everybody's, which she co-founded with her husband Kimathi Asante. Born under the sun sign Sagittarius, Halifu was a special guest speaker at the BWOA May meeting, and presented a slide presentation.

TO OUR READERS:

The BWOA newsletter will undergo some changes. We will have regular features now, Health Hotline, Live reports and reviews of events of interest to our readers, a monthly calendar of events, profiles of BWOA members and other Black women in the arts, education, science, politics, etc., and a Speak Out sections for members to respond to controversial issues.

Members are asked to serve as reporters, for specific events, or on a regular basis. Reporters will be asked to cover certain specific events, write a story about it and submit the story to the editor. The stories will be typed up and laid out for printing once a month, on Saturday, as we have done in the past. Saturday work parties will be brief -- three hours, with only typing, proof-reading, and lay-outs to be done. Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the first Saturday after the 20th of each month. Stories should be submitted before this date to get in that month's newsletter. Reporters will be given credit for their work in the form of by-lines.

We urge our members to contribute to our newsletter: as reporters, as typists, as layout artists. We welcome your ideas for improving our newsletter.



HEALTH HOTLINE

B12 for Bursitis: A reader of Prevention Magazine who had had bursitis for over 20 years reported almost immediate relief when she began to take one cc. of B12 daily. (Also available in injection form from your doctor).

BONE MEAL FOR ARTHRITIS PAIN: An active registered nurse for over 45 years, recently, retired, developed acute arthritis pain in her hands, wrists, and shoulders. She started taking nine bone meal tablets daily. After four weeks the pain was completely gone. She now continues to take six bonemeal tablets a day as a preventive measure.

WOUNDS HEAL MORE QUICKLY WHEN ZINC, VITS, A, C, AND E ARE USED PLENTIFULLY.

If you are recovering from major surgery, a car accident, a bad fall, burn, bruise, or scratch, vitamin c should be used as a supplement to your diet. Vit. C is essential for the most important part of the healing process - the formation of collagen, the glue that puts and holds cells together. Those deficient in vit. C. may not be able to form collagen, meaning that wound healing may be delayed or might not take place. Patients with persistent bedsores given supplements of two 500 mg. tablets of vit. C daily healed twice as fast (Lancet Sept. 7, 1974).

Vit. C, probably the most well-known of the vitamins today, is also effective in the forming of healthy blood capillaries, bones, and connective tissue. It assists in the absorption of iron, and may play an important role in the body's reaction to stress. The normal minimum requirement of vit. C is about 30 to 100 milligrams per day, but smokers should take extra doses of this vitamin. Every cigaret you smoke destroys 10 to 15 milligrams of vit. C, which is one possible reason why heavy smoking accelerates the aging process.

Vitamin A works hand in hand with vit. C in the healing process. One vit. C makes the formation of collagen possible, vit. A increases the rate at which the new collagen cross-links to form and strengthen new tissue. Even minor wounds increases the need for vit. A. Injured people need more vit. A, also. Severely injured, such as burn victims and accident victims, can need it so badly their blood levels drop so steeply that they can develop gastrointestinal "stress" ulcers.

Vit. A is a "must" wound healer for people who are taking cortisone for the relief of arthritis or other kinds of inflammation. Anti-inflammation drugs such as cortisone or even aspirin retard the healing of open wounds and increase the risk of their infection. Vit. A can restore normal healing. Some recent research suggests that vit. A helps prevent the formation of cancerous cells. The controversy over this rages on. . . Because vit. A forms part of the pigment in the eye retina, it is also needed for maintaining good vision in dim light. A normal amount of vit. A for good health is 10,000 to 20,000 units daily.

Zinc also works to counter the effects of cortisone. Zinc also works as a teammate of vit. A. Without zinc, vit. A stores in the body could not be mobilized. Without zinc the new cells needed to form new tissue cannot be made.

Vitamin E - The healing power of vitamin E seems almost unlimited. We'll just list a few. No heart patient should be without vit. E as a daily diet supplement. Bedsores, diabetic ulcers, and ulcerated surgical incisions can be treated with both capsules and ointments of vit. E. Keloids may not form if deep skin wounds such as surgical incisions are rubbed daily with vit. E oil (direct from the capsule is best). Studies have shown that too little vit. E in our diet may make us susceptible to the harmful effects of air pollution. Human milk contains four times the amount of vit. E found in cow's milk, which may be some indications of its importance.

CAUTION: Do not overdose on any vitamin or supplement. Check the recommended daily dose and work around this. For acute conditions higher doses will be needed temporarily. Also, eat nutritious foods, and do not abuse the body through lack of proper rest and other excesses. More on this in future BWOA newsletters.





CALENDAR



June 4 - "Women in Violence" is the title of Rape Crisis Intervention's annual conference in Chico, Calif. The aim of the conference is to instruct community educators and medical practitioners in the psychology of victimization, the socialization of violent crime, medical protocol in cases of violent crime, and the history of violence against women. For further information contact: Rape Crisis Intervention, P.O. Box 423, Chico, CA 95927; Tel: 916/891-1331.

June 5 - 8 - Project Return Foundation, a New York based human services agency, will hold its second annual "Women In Crisis" national conference, to be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. Issues to be addressed include Women and Mental Health, Women and Drug Abuse, Women and Alcoholism, and Women and Justice. For information on the conference, contact: Jane Velez, Conference Administrator, "Women In Crisis" 444 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016; Tel: 212/686-1942.

June 6 - 7 - San Francisco Regional Conference for Women - American Women: Issues and Progress in the UN Decade for Women 1976 - 1985 (see article on page 6).

June 6 - 10 -Community Law Week in San Francisco (see article on page 8)

June 7 - The Bay Area Association of Black Social Workers' Open Arms Adoption Project will sponsor a Family Fair - Celebration of Black Children, in James Kenney Park, 1720 8th Street, Berkeley, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Included in the fair will be workshops on Health and Nutrition, Developmentally Disabled, Adoptions, Child Care Services. Scheduled special events include Puppetry, Arts and Crafts, Storytellers, Dance, Poetry and Displays.

June 7 - 8 - Conference on Feminist Therapy: "Women Working with Women in Counseling and Psychotherapy"; the first annual West Coast conference sponsored by the Center for Feminist Therapy and Education. Workshops, panels and speakers. Wheelchair accessible; interpreter for the deaf. For registration and information, call 415/397-2023.

June 7 - The San Francisco Negro Business and Professional Women, Inc., will hold their annual awards luncheon at the Presidio Officers Club. Their presentation is entitled "Conversations With Three Women," focusing on realities for Black women in the new decade- Health, Education, and Employment. For ticket information call E. Nance at 931-5202

June 8 - Everybody's Creative Arts Center's Third Anniversary and Mural Celebration.

B.W.O.A. - June 11, 1980

The June meeting will be held at the Western Addition Public Library, 1550 Scott Street (across from Mt. Zion Hospital). Special guests will be Alice Washington and Joan Copeland, social workers with the Urban League. They will talk on the Permanency Planning Special Project study on Black children in foster care. Meeting date: June 11, 1980. All meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

June 12 - "Going After Dollars in Hard Times II", a Seminar on Corporate Fundraising, sponsored by Funding Feminists, a coalition of San Francisco Bay Area women's groups and fundraisers formed in 1978. For further information, call Nancie Zivetz 415/494-8716, or Sue Martin 415/552-6550.

June 15 - Everybody's Creative Arts Center hosts an Arts Symposium Panel, one of six to be held at various locations thruout the Bay area. These are public forums set up to generate public interest in, awareness of, and support for the arts. Time: 3-6 pm. Place: 354-21 street, Oakland. For information, call 451-1230

June 13 - 15 - The Second Annual Summit on Black Concerns. At Sacramento's Convention Center.(see article page 14)





June 19 - 22 - The third National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference will be held at San Francisco State University. Workshops scheduled include: Racism in Health Care, Needs of Disabled People, Aspects of Aging, The Courts and the Lesbian/Bay Mental Health Client, Substance Abuse, Gay Couple Counseling and Organizing Lesbian Self Help Clinics. For information call Ann 415/282-3919, or Don 415/548-3984.

June 25 - 29 - National Black United Fund Conference IV, hosted by the Detroit Black United Fund, Inc. Issues to be addressed: "Funding the Black Agenda: Models for Survival in the 1980s" For further information, call 213/295-6431 or 313/875-7811.

B.W.O.A. - July 9, 1980

The July meeting will be held at the Oakland Public Library, located at 125 14th Street. Take the Nimitz Freeway to the Jackson Street exit. Take Jackson to Oak, make a left, and proceed up Oak Street to 14th Street. All meetings start at 6:30 p.m.



ANGELOU



GIOVANNI

AT SUMMIT ON BLACK CONCERNS

(See story on page 14)

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Procope Appointed

Ms. Ernesta G. Procope, founder and president of E.G. Bowman Co. Inc. of New York, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Arbitration Association---a national, nonprofit organization that provides a full range of services in arbitration and mediation for the settlement of disputes. Robert Coulson, president of AAA, made the announcement of Ms. Procope's appointment.

The E.G. Bowman Company is a Black-owned insurance brokerage firm which started in Bedford Stuyvesant in 1953. It is now a full service firm with offices on Wall Street and in Brooklyn.

An active civic worker, Ms. Procope is frequently called upon to give testimony before government agencies on the needs of local communities and the insurance world. She is on the boards of Avon Products, the Chubb Corporation, Columbia Gas System, Inc., the Urban National Corporation, Cornell University, Adelphi University, the New York Zoological Society and the Salvation Army of New York.

The American Arbitration Association has twenty-four regional offices which administered over forty-five thousand cases last year. More than fifty thousand persons serve on its impartial panels as arbitrators.





classified ads



WANTED

Members needed desperately!
Old and New - Experience Not
Necessary. Many openings on
various committees -some of
which need chairwomen.
Great opportunity for Creative,
Conscientious, Hard-Working,
Alert, and Amiable Women.
Organizing Experience Helpful,
But We Will Train.

PERSONAL

A Tribute to Dad On Father's Day -- Rita

I turned out to be a pretty good person

Thanks Dad

*For working so hard to keep my stomach full
and my head knowledgeable

*For teaching me how to live like a respected
human being

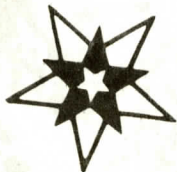
*For insisting that I learn something other
than cooking and sewing

*For encouraging me to continue in graduate
school when things got rough and I wanted
to quit

*For teaching me to be honest with men--
not to lead them on when I'm not interested

*For listening when I was in pain and confused

*Thanks Dad for loving me



CONT'D

Welcome back to the Bay Area
Amy. We need your energy.
Come see us soon.

* * * * *

Congratulations Eve Reingold on
your new position with Boeing.
Write and tell us about it.

* * * * *

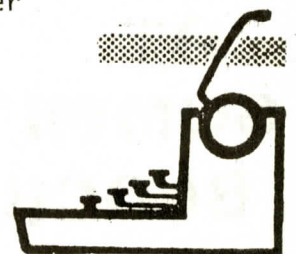
Happy Birthday to all the
Sisters Born in June!!!

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Camile Barber
Ernestine D. Eppenger
Aileen Hernandez
Patricia McMillian
Helena Montgomery
Robertta Palm
Osa Russell
Eleanor Spikes
Regina L. Scott
Edith Turnipseed
Toni Wynn
Produced This Wonderful
Newsletter!



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